

What is claimed is:

1. A method of sharing attributes of a first entry with other entries in a directory system, the method comprising the step of:

5 generating the value of at least one attribute of the first entry, whereby the user's attribute may be shared with other entries in a manner transparent to an application.

10 2. The method as in claim 1, wherein the step of generating further comprises the step of:

generating the value of the at least one attribute at the time the entry is transmitted to an application.

15 3. The method as in claim 1, wherein the step of generating further comprises the step of:

generating the value of the at least one attribute immediately prior to the time the entry is transmitted to an application.

20 4. The method as in claim 1, wherein the step of generating further comprises the step of:

using a class of service logic to generate the at least one attribute of the user.

25 5. A method of configuring a directory server comprising a plurality of entries, the method comprising the step of:

defining a class of service (CoS) attribute for a target entry, the CoS attribute including a CoS Definition entry and a Template entry, whereby the CoS Definition entry

and the Template entry interact to provide an attribute value to a target entry that lies within a CoS scope of the CoS Definition entry and the Template entry.

6. The method as in claim 5, wherein the CoS Definition entry is stored as an LDAP
5 subentry below the branch at which it is effective.
7. The method as in claim 5, wherein the CoS Definition entry identifies a CoS type
being used.
- 10 8. The method as in claim 5, wherein the Template entry contains a list of attribute
values that are shared.
9. The method as in claim 5, wherein the CoS scope is defined by the DN of the CoS
Definition entry.
15
10. The method as in claim 5, wherein the presence or absence of the target entry's
CoS specifier determines whether the target entry may receive a CoS value.
11. The method as in claim 5, wherein an attribute value stored in a CoS Template
20 determines what value a target entry may receive as a CoS value.
12. The method as in claim 5, further comprising the step of:
changing an attribute value in the Template entry.
- 25 13. The method as in claim 12, further comprising the step of:
automatically applying the changed attribute value to all entries that share the
attribute.

14. The method as in claim 13, wherein the changed attribute values are applied to an entry that shares the attribute at the time the entry is transmitted to an application.

15. The method as in claim 13, wherein the changed attribute values are applied to an 5 entry that shares the attribute immediately prior to the time the entry is transmitted to an application.

16. An apparatus comprising:

a directory server comprising:

10 first component configured to store a plurality of target entries;

second component configured to facilitate sharing attributes of a first entry with other entries in a directory system; and

third component configured to generate the value of at least one attribute of the first entry, whereby the user's attribute may be shared with other entries in a 15 manner transparent to an application.

17. The apparatus as in claim 16, wherein the third component further comprises:

fourth component configured to generate of the at least one attribute at the 20 time the entry is transmitted to an application.

18. The apparatus as in claim 16, wherein the third component further comprises:

fifth component configured to generate the value of the at least one

25 attribute immediately prior to the time the entry is transmitted to an application.

19. The apparatus as in claim 16, wherein the third component further comprises:

sixth component configured to use a class of service logic to generate the

at least one attribute of the user.

20. An apparatus comprising:

a directory server comprising:

5 first component configured to store a plurality of target entries; and

second component configured to define a class of service (CoS) attribute for a target entry, the CoS attribute including a CoS Definition entry and a Template entry, whereby the CoS Definition entry and the Template entry interact to provide an attribute value to a target entry that lies within a CoS scope of the CoS Definition entry
10 and the Template entry.

21. The apparatus as in claim 20, wherein the CoS Definition entry is stored as an LDAP subentry below the branch at which it is effective.

15 22. The apparatus as in claim 20, wherein the CoS Definition entry identifies a CoS type being used.

23. The apparatus as in claim 20, wherein the Template entry contains a list of attribute values that are shared.

20 24. The apparatus as in claim 20, wherein the CoS scope is defined by the DN of the CoS Definition entry.

25. The apparatus as in claim 20, wherein the presence or absence of the target entry's CoS specifier determines whether the target entry may receive a CoS value.

26. The apparatus as in claim 20, wherein an attribute value stored in a CoS Template determines what value a target entry may receive as a CoS value.

27. The apparatus as in claim 20, further comprising :
a component to change an attribute value in the Template entry.

5 28. The apparatus as in claim 27, further comprising:
a component to automatically apply the changed attribute value to all entries that
share the attribute.

10 29. The apparatus as in claim 27, wherein the changed attribute values are applied to
an entry that shares the attribute at the time the entry is transmitted to an application.

30. The apparatus as in claim 27, wherein the changed attribute values are applied to
an entry that shares the attribute immediately prior to the time the entry is transmitted to
an application.

15